

Claims:

Cancel Claims 1-16 including duplicate claims 9 and 10.

Cancel Claims 17- 36.

Claim 37 (Changed) A method to adapt a route to implement a process, comprising;
dividing the process into a sequence of process steps;
assigning to each process step, except for a first process step for which a workflow step is to be specified during the execution of the route, a workflow step to implement the process step where the sequence of workflow steps create a route;
including in the sequence of the route prior to the first process step position, an adaptive workflow step to specify select a process step from a list of process step candidates, where each process step candidate provides a corresponding workflow step, a workflow step to implement the first process step;
executing the route in a workflow system such that the adaptive workflow step executes and specifies selects a process step with corresponding a workflow step to implement the first process step and adapt the route to implement the process by inserting the selected corresponding workflow step into the route to implement the first process step.

Claim 38 (Cancel)

Claim 39 (Cancel)

Claim 40 (Changed) The method of Claim 37, wherein the adaptive workflow step specifies a sub-process with associated sub-route, a sequence of workflow steps, by selecting from a list of sub-processes.

Claim 41 (Changed) The method of Claim 37, wherein the adaptive workflow step specifies a sub-process with associated sub-route from a library of sub-processes routes, by selecting from a list of sub-processes.

Claim 42 (Changed) The method of Claim 37, wherein the adaptive workflow step specifies a sub-process with associated sub-route including an adaptive workflow step, by selecting from a list of sub-processes.

Claim 43 (Changed) The method of Claim 37, wherein the adaptive workflow step specifies parallel sub-processes with associated sub-routes, by selecting from a list of sub-processes.

Claim 44 (Changed) The method of Claim 37, wherein the adaptive workflow step modifies a sub-process with associated sub-route and specifies the modified sub-route, by selecting from a list of sub-processes.

Claim 45 (Changed) A workflow system for adapting a route while processing the route, comprising:

a computer;

an adaptive workflow program, providing an adaptive step to specify a subsequent step in a route by selecting a step from a list of step candidates during the processing of the route, executing in the computer;

a route, containing the adaptive step, stored in the computer;

wherein the adaptive workflow program processes the route and

the adaptive step is processed to specify the subsequent step in the route which adapts the route by inserting the selected step in the route as the subsequent step.

Claim 46 (Cancel)

Claim 47 (Changed) The system of Claim 45, wherein the adaptive step specifies a sub-route, a sequence of steps, by selecting a sub-route from a list of candidate sub-routes.

Claim 48 (Changed) The system of Claim 45, wherein the adaptive step specifies a sub-route including an adaptive step, by selecting a sub-route from a list of candidate sub-routes.

Claim 49 (Changed) The system of Claim 45, wherein the adaptive step specifies parallel sub-routes by selecting a sub-route from a list of candidate sub-routes.

Claim 50 (Changed) The system of Claim 45, wherein the adaptive step modifies a sub-route and specifies the modified sub-route by selecting a sub-route from a list of candidate sub-routes.

Claim 51 (Changed) A method to adapt the execution of a workflow route, a sequence of steps, comprising:

defining the workflow route except a first step to be specified during the execution of the workflow route;

including in the workflow route prior to the yet to be specified first step, an adaptive step to specify select the first step from a list of step candidates; starting execution of the workflow route in a workflow system such that the adaptive step specifies selects the first step to adapt the execution of the workflow route by inserting the selected step into the route as the first step.

Claim 52 (Cancel)

Claim 53 (Changed) The method of Claim 51 wherein the adaptive step specifies a sub-route, a sequence of steps, from a list of sub-route candidates.

Claim 54 (Changed) The method of Claim 51 wherein the adaptive step specifies a sub-route including an adaptive step, from a list of sub-route candidates.

Claim 55 (Changed) The method of Claim 51 wherein the adaptive step specifies parallel sub-routes, from a list of sub-route candidates.

Claim 56 (Changed) The method of Claim 51 wherein the adaptive step modifies a sub-route and specifies the modified sub-route, from a list of sub-route candidates.

Claim 57 (New) The method of Claim 37 wherein the list of process step candidates is a sub-set of possible process steps, where the sub-set selection is based on selection factors including the process, the process step to be adapted, the location where the process is executed, route design insight.

Claim 58 (New) The system of Claim 45 wherein the list of step candidates is a sub-set of possible steps, where the sub-set selection is based on selection factors including the route, the step to be adapted, the location where the route is executed, route design insight.

Claim 59 (New) The method of Claim 51 wherein the list of step candidates is a sub-set of possible steps, where the sub-set selection is based on selection factors including the route, the step to be adapted, the location where the route is executed, route design insight.